



## NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

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### ***Sister Cities International Awards San Antonio “Best Overall Program: Population Greater than 500,000”***

Sister Cities International has awarded San Antonio's Sister City program the *Best Overall Program: Population Greater than 500,000*. The award will be presented to San Antonio at the Sister Cities International 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C., in July 2006.

“The award is a deserving tribute to the contribution and dedication of all the community associations and volunteers that have fostered and strengthened international cooperation and understanding with San Antonio's seven Sister Cities,” said Elizabeth Costello, director of the City's International Affairs Department which oversees the program.

Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities. It strives to build global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development. From July 13 to July 15, 2006, more than 1,000 sister city delegates from around the world will gather in Washington, D.C., to mark the 50th Anniversary of Sister Cities International, honoring President Dwight D. Eisenhower's vision of citizen diplomacy to promote peace through mutual respect,

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## **City receives Sister Cities Award/Page 2**

understanding, and cooperation—one individual, one community at a time.

The City of San Antonio enjoys productive sister city relationships with its seven Sister cities—Guadalajara and Monterrey, Mexico; Gwangju, South Korea; Kumamoto, Japan; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Spain. Exchange programs between San Antonio's Sister Cities have occurred in the arts, culture and education; economic and business development; sport and youth leadership; health and research; municipal training and community problem-solving; and technology exchange. Many of San Antonio's sister city exchanges have been initiated and sponsored by area schools, ethnic organizations, corporations and citizen groups in coordination with their counterparts in our sister city communities. These international programs have paved the way for significant economic development and cultural enrichment in our community.